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Friday, February 21, 2003

RE Hearing Set For Thursday, February 27 in Richmond, VA

My commit has to do with opportunity for African Americans and the telecommunications industry. In particular Local Radio Ownership.

I can only commit on the Chico area and how I'm affected personally. To make a long story short on March 12, 1994, David K. Hartshorn, Electronics Engineer, FCC Field Operations Bureau, San Francisco Office, 3777 Depot Road, Suite 420, Hayward, CA 94545 (510) 732-9046, came to inspect my R&B Hip Hop 100 watt station. I made several attempts to get my application filled with the FCC but it was returned every year. In the Meantime I obtained a Use Permit to allow a radio station, transmission facilities and tower as a public quasi-public use. And had operated my station for five years, from the date my use permit was filed May 17, 1988, until March 12, 1994. That is my long story made short and not the issue here.

The issue is there are now two Hip Hop stations KZAP & KLRS in the Chico California. Not one has an African American DJ on air or office person that I have seen or heard. I personally applied at KZAP about three weeks ago. And went to KLRS to pick up an application yesterday and was told, "they had no applications and to submit a resume and a tape". I plan on doing that some time next week. However, I do not anticipate a response from either station.

My question is where is the diversity and competition in Local Radio Station Ownership in Chico? Even the new owners of Black Entertainment Television allow African Americans to host the shows.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion and frustrations.

Marcus A. Smith  
Chico California

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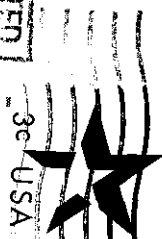
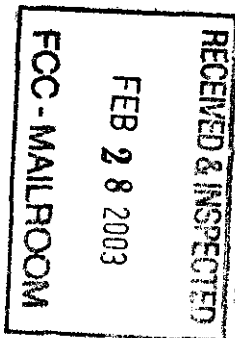
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